will not be retrenched on account of closure of mines or suspension of mining operations but will be suitably redeployed.

Handing over surplus mining blocks to private entrepreneurs by CIL

4182. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether CIL has been criticised for not handing over surplus mining blocks to private entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, whether to sustain the projected coal production in the next few years, there is a need to hand over surplus mining blocks to private entrepreneurs; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries have identified 121 blocks/sub-blocks and Singareni Collieries Company Limited has identified 7 blocks, totally 128 blocks, have been identified for allocation to public/private sector for captive mining. While out of the above blocks 27 blocks have been allotted so far, mining of coal has started in 4 blocks.

Removal of coal mafia from coal mines

4183. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to crack down on coal mafia who are active in various coal mines;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether fake coal linkage companies have also been identified recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to remove coal mafia from various coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) Whenever reports of any irregularities are received, the Government and the coal companies take necessary corrective measures. The measures taken to check the irregularities are as follows :

(i) Specific cases of any irregularity are investigated by the Vigilance Departments of CIL and its subsidiaries. Appropriate departmental proceedings are initiated and penalties imposed on officials, where charges of irregularities are established;

(ii) The CBI also initiates *suo motu* inquiries where cases of grave irregularities come to their notice. Based on their findings, either prosecution is launched or departmental proceedings are initiated;

(iii) A drive has been launched, with the help of the concerned State Governments, to verify the antecedents of linked consumers in the non-core sector sponsored by State Governments;

(iv) Steps have been initiated to streamline the functioning of ex-servicemen transport companies engaged in coal transportation;

(v) Measures are being devised in consultation with the State Authorities to prevent misuse or multiple use of Delivery Orders.

(c) and (d) The issue of coal supply to non-core sector consumers came up for review by the Ministry of Coal and subsidiary companies of CIL were advised to write to State Government authorities, internal vigiliance of subsidiaries and other sponsoring authorities to verify :-

(i) existence of the unit;

(ii) working status of the units; and

(iii) consumption pattern of the unit.

As a result of this exercise, till 1.4.2003, 958 units have been identified against which coal supplies had been stopped on the ground of adverse report received from different investigating agencies.

(e) The following steps are continuously taken by the coal companies to check malpractices :

(i) Intensive patrolling by the Central Industrial Security Force and security personnel of coal companies;

(ii) Close liaison with the State/district authorities;

(iii) Raids by CISF and local police on illegal coal depots;

(iv) Surprise checks/raids by security personnel;

(v) Handing over of miscreants to the police and lodging of FIRs.